inter alia, Member Customs and the Director General of Foreign Trade. The Apex bodies like CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, FIEO are also Members of this Group. This Group identifies operational problems relating to Export and Import Policy and Procedures. Based on the deliberations of the Group, the need for making modifications in the Export and Import Policy and Procedures, is examined and changes, as deemed appropriate, are incorporated.

Price of rice for export

38. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of rice for export purposes have been increased;

(b) if so, what are the prices of different grades of rice fixed for domestic consumption and also for export;

(c) the extent of increase made in the export price of rice; and

(d) the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) As per the Exim Policy, both basmati and non-basmati rice are freely exportable without any quantity or price restrictions. During the period April-August 1995, a total quantity of 14,56,276 MT of rice (Basmati and non-basmati) valued at Rs. 1186.74 crores have been exported with an average unit price realisation of Rs. 8.15 per kg as compared to 2,34,916 MT of rice valued at Rs. 402.55 crores exported during the corresponding period last year with an average unit price realisation of Rs. 17.13 per kg.

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Flood disaster in a coal mine in Dhanbad

39. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI O.P KOHLI:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether inquiries into the Gaslitend mines flood disaster, resulting in trapping to death of at least 64 miners, reveal a clear-cut case of human negligence;

(b) if so, what are the details of the accident;

(c) the revelations of the inquiries;

(d) what compensation has been paid to the victims and their families;

(e) steps taken to prevent such disaster in future; and

(f) the number of accidents taken place in coal mines during the last five years and number of persons killed, accident-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) to (c) Under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952, the Government have constituted a Court of Inquiry headed by Shri S.K. Mukherjee, to inquire into the causes and circumstances attending the accident which occurred at Gaslitand and other mines of Bharat Cocking Coal Limited (BCCL) on 26/27/-9-1995. The Court of Inquiry is to submit its report within a period of three months.

(d) Detials of compensation paid to the nominees of the victims of the Gaslitand Mine disaster are given below:

(i) Gratuity	—Rs. 20,07,062.93
(ii) Compensation under the Workmen Compensation Act	— Rs. 45,57,952.00
(iii) CMPF Dues	— Rs. 40,96,211.00
(iv) Life Assurance benefit under CMPF	— Rs. 94,000.00
(v) Immediate financial assistance	— Rs. 1,000.00 each
(vi) Ex-gratia unde NCWA	— Rs. 10,000.00 each
(vii) Benevolent fund	— Rs. 5,000.00 each
(viii) Life Cover Scheme	— Rs. 15,000.00 each
(ix) Additional Ex-gratia declared by Minister of State for Coal	— Rs. 75,000.00 each
(x) Ex-gratia declared by Central Consultative Committee, a joint forum of Management and Trade Unions.	— Rs. 51,000.00 each (to be paid)

(e) Preventive steps as laid down in details in the Coal Mines Regulations, directives of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Export Committee recommendations as also in the recommendations of various Courts of Inquiry, Safety Conferences, etc. are followed by the mine managements to prevent accident. In order to ensure better observance of these steps Government is promoting self-regulation by coal companies through internal safety audits: Workers participation in safety managements / tripartite / bipartite reviews at various levels, training and re-training of work persons, observance of safety/weeks/safety campaigns and National Safety awards.

(f) The details as furnished by Directorate General of Mines Safety regarding accidents in coal mines in India during the last five years are given below:—

Years	Fatal Accidents		Serious Accidents	
	No. of Accidents	No. of Persons Killed	No. of Accidents	No. of Persons Injured
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1990	151	166	893	960
1991	138	143	803	821
1992	165	183	810	834
1993	156	176	854	903
1994	156	241	717	775
1995 (Jan-Oct 95)	126	206	632	680

Figures of 1994 and 1995 are provisional.

*Including 64 persons innvolved in Gaslitand colliery.